Governance and IT Systems for European University alliances

EUNIS
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Nuno Escudeiro – nfe@isep.ipp.pt
Outline

• European Universities initiative
• Transforming Higher Education @ATHENA
• Governance
• Infrastructure
European Universities initiative

“...the ambitious vision of an innovative, globally competitive and attractive European Education Area and European Research Area, in full synergy with the European Higher Education Area, by helping to boost the excellence dimension of higher education, research and innovation, while promoting gender equality, inclusiveness, and equity, allowing for seamless and ambitious transnational cooperation between higher education institutions in Europe, and inspiring the transformation of higher education.”

“European Universities are transnational alliances that will lead the way towards the universities of the future, promoting European values and identity, and revolutionising the quality and competitiveness of European higher education.”

1st phase 2019/2023 (3 years) → ATHENA 2020
2nd phase 2022/2029 (4 + 2 years)

44 European Universities involving around 340 higher education institutions in both capital cities and remote regions of 31 countries, including all EU Member States, Iceland, Norway, Serbia and Turkey

Aiming at 60 alliances to be fully rolled out until 2027.
Main EU policy objectives of the EUi

• promote European values and strengthen European identity
• improve quality, performance, attractiveness and international competitiveness
• foster institutionalised cooperation with systemic, structural and sustainable impact
• encourage a whole-institution approach
• mobilise all missions of higher education institutions
• deliver on EEA, ERA and EHEA objectives
• act as role models.

https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/higher-education/european-universities-initiative
European Universities initiative

Probably the most ambitious initiative in Europe for higher education after the launch of the Erasmus programme 35 years ago.

2019-20, 2022-23: EU investment ~1.000 M€
Additional funding by Member States

Moving from project based funding to structural funding
Combined grants involving EU (Erasmus+, Horizon, ...) and Member States

European University legal entity

European Degree

Recognition Common infrastructure
Accreditation Security Equity
Mobility Micro-credentials
National regulations Tuition Careers
ATHENA – Advanced Technology Higher Education Network Alliance

Supporting the green digitalization of inclusive societies
Partnership

Polytechnic University of Porto
Hellenic Mediterranean University
University of Siegen
University of Maribor
University Niccolò Cusano
University of Orléans
Vilnius Gediminas Technical University
University of Vigo
Maria Curie-Skłodowska University.
ATHENA profile

• 9 medium-size institutions
• 166K students
• 15K staff
A few innovative features

Service to society

ATHENA

Internal stakeholders

Language Café

Joint courses, COIL

ATHENA Talks

ESN ATHENA

Competence Clusters, Micro-Credentials

Infrastructure, Mobility Kernel

External stakeholders

International cooperation, RUFORUM, CONIF, ...

R&D platform, search and share research interests and resources

BlendEd course, proof of concept, challenges from companies

Lifelong Learning opportunities.

Tools, services, courses for external players

Multinational recruiting and training

Education, Research and Innovation

Multinational recruiting and training

ATHENA

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Internal stakeholders

External stakeholders
Transforming Higher Education
ATHENA digest from the Education angle:

• Competence Clusters
• Embedded Mobility
• In practice ...
ATHENA digest from the Education angle:

- Competence Clusters
- Embedded Mobility
- In practice ...
SCU

Skills and Competences Unit

A SCU is any structured academic activity (full courses, course modules, labs, ...) offered in the ATHENA space that can be attended on its own to promotes learners’ skills and competences.

SCU are assessed and certified in its own through micro-credentials.
Competence Clusters are cohesive homogeneous groups of SCU, each one of them assuring the same/equivalent set of skills, competences, learning outcomes and workload/ECTS. SCU in the same cluster are equivalent from the point of view of learning outcomes, skills and competences and workload. So they can be exchanged ... ... or attended autonomously.
Student-Centred learning
Student-Centred learning
Student-Centred learning

• Design ones’ own learning path
• Find more opportunities to succeed
• Reduce time to graduation
Lifelong Learning: Upskilling, Reskilling
Lifelong Learning: **Upskilling**, Reskilling

Upskilling: new context, acquiring new skills and competences to succeed in new environment
Lifelong Learning: Upskilling, Reskilling

Reskilling: moving from one professional/study area to a new one
Comply with fast changing market needs

Reuse all available courses/modules to develop new training addressing specific needs on the fly.
Competence Clusters aim to …

1. Pave the way for **student centred education**, curriculum à la carte
2. **Reduce time to graduation**
3. Foster simplified, objective, **effective access to lifelong learning**, reskilling, upskilling
4. Deploy training plans to **suit specific market needs on the fly**
5. **Open the doors of the university** to the local communities
6. Take the **best advantage of university educational assets**
7. **Create new markets** for higher education.
ATHENA digest from the Education angle:

• Competence Clusters
• Embedded Mobility
• In practice ...
**Joint Education Model**

**Education Board**
- Student centred education, curriculum à la carte
- Lifelong learning
- Effective response to fast changing market needs
- Opening new markets for higher education

**Common Infrastructure**
- Common LMS, Moodle Net, Blockchain Micro-credentials, EduCTX
- Virtual Classroom, Multimedia lab, Remote Labs Hub, internships virtual market, Praxis
- Joint Administrative procedures, staff training, marketing/promotion
- Governance, internal, national and European regulations for HE

**Inclusion**
All students, all staff find at the university the opportunities and the resources they need to succeed

**Competence Clusters**
- Student centred education, curriculum à la carte
- Lifelong learning
- Effective response to fast changing market needs
- Opening new markets for higher education

**Embedded Mobility**: a coherent, cohesive, holistic set of attitudes, skills and competences, underpinned by supporting procedures, tools and resources involving and empowering all the internal stakeholders of ATHENA (students, academics, researchers and administrative staff) in building an exciting and catchy international university campus that inspires local communities and delivers significant added value to the society.

**Higher Education Observatory**

**ESN ATHENA**
### Competence Clusters
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### Embedded Mobility
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ATHENA digest from the Education angle:
• Competence Clusters
• Embedded Mobility
• In practice ...
50% student mobility?
50% student mobility?
Currently we have 5%? 7%? 10%?

Blended mobility, virtual mobility opportunities
- huge potential for inclusive sustainable education
- unique mobility booster

Joint courses
- joint Database course 2021/22
- 400+ students, 14 teachers, 4 universities
- theoretical classes, lab assignments in teams
- COIL – Collaborative Online International Learning

100% student mobility?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Número de estudantes OUT (do ISEP)</th>
<th>2019/2020</th>
<th>2020/2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mobilidade tradicional/física/Erasmus</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobilidade mista</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobilidade virtual, Internacionalização em casa</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Número total de estudantes do ISEP</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>42</td>
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</table>
Transforming higher education:

1. **Student-centered learning**: design your own academic path; reduce time to graduation; gateway to research initiation

2. **Upskilling**: new context; acquiring new skills/competences to succeed in new environments on the same professional/academic/research area

3. **Reskilling**: new field; moving from one professional/study area to a new one

4. **Effective answer to fast changing needs**: new technologies, new labor market needs, develop new training addressing specific needs; reuse current assets; boost time to market
Transforming higher education:

• **New academic and lifelong learning opportunities**

1. **Student-centered learning**: design your own academic path; reduce time to graduation; gateway to research initiation

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Challenges

• Governance, internal regulations
• National and European regulations for HE
• Common infrastructure
• Virtual classroom, multimedia lab
• Mainstream virtual and blended mobility
• Certification
• Micro-credentials
• Blockchain certificates
• Security, safety
• Mindset switch
• Staff training
• Marketing.
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- **Common infrastructure**
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Governance
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Organization Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>European (Stock) Company/Societas Europaea (SA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Economic Interest Group (EEIG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-profit Association (Verein, društvo, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company</td>
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</tbody>
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**Purpose/goal/target**

Visibility: Joint identity & image  
Long-term collaboration  
Sustainability  
Reduce barriers  
Deliver European Joint Awards  
Apply for joint European Projects  
Share staff and also hire some  
Share staff and also hire some  
Share infrastructures  
Buy goods and services  
Keep the autonomy of the partner universities  
Run all the necessary University functions in a unified way  
Disrupt university landscape in Europe  
Joint admission and registration of students  
Joint access to international networks  
Europass, automatic recognition  
Joint data management and ethics
Infrastructure
ATHENA Moodle Net

Competence Clusters

- Soft Skills Academy
- BlendEd project courses
- COIL courses, Joint courses
- Courses, modules, labs

Mobility Kernel
Comprehensive portfolio of mobility alternatives (physical, blended, virtual)

ATHENA Moodle Net

- IPP Moodle
- HMU Moodle
- USIEGEN Moodle
- UM Moodle
- UNC Moodle
- UO Moodle
- VGTU Moodle
- UVIGO Moodle
- MCSU Moodle

Virtual Classrooms

Multimedia Labs

Legend:
- Infrastructure
- Content
- Services

Micro-credentials

EduCTX Blockchain.

Volunteering

Praxis

Language Café

ATHENA Talks

R&I Hub

Remote Labs Galaxy
**Mobility Kernel**
Comprehensive portfolio of mobility alternatives (physical, blended, virtual)
- Interface to external hubs, such as the ATHENA hub
- Integrate external apps: editors, simulators, blockchain, remote labs, ...
- LMS Factory.

1 https://cip.ipp.pt
An holistic vision in support of a sound transformation of higher education and research, opening new markets, offering new services and expanding horizons for a green and inclusive digitalization.
¡Gracias!

https://athenauni.eu/
Nuno Escudeiro, nfe@isep.ipp.pt